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FIRST COURSE IN SPANISH. An Elementary Spanish Grammar, by E. W. OLMSTED, University of Minnesota. Holt & Company. 1920, XII+393 pages.

This book may be used for grammar-translation or for modified-direct method teaching since it has some of the features of both methods.

The book contains: Introduction (14 pages), XLV Lessons (219 pages), Appendix (87 pages), Vocabulary (60 pages), Index (9 pages). Its general appearance is good though some of the illustrations are not very clear. There is perhaps enough material for two years of high school or one full year in college. The Appendix is very full and furnishes enough reference material for use later in the course. It treats the following subjects many of which are often given in the body of the book in grammars: (1) the verb, (2) lists of irregular verbs, (3) the infinitive, (4) cardinals, ordinals and fractions, (5) weights, measures and money, (6) augmentatives and diminutives, (7) interjections and idioms, (8) examples of epistolary style, announcement forms and poems for memory drill. Of these, at least the last four are best placed in the Appendix, since it seems to me that they only serve to confuse the beginning student when placed in the body of the book.

Turning to a consideration of the form and content of the Introduction and Lessons we find the following features: a simple and in most cases accurate introductory chapter on the subjects which are usually found in such chapters; short and well worded grammar explanations in English which the beginner can understand, followed by an English-Spanish vocabulary and the following exercise: (1) *cuestionario grammatical*, (2) *ejercicio oral*, (3) *ejercicio de lectura*, (4) *conversación*, and (5) *ejercicio de traducción*; double nomenclature; verb drills in 23 out of the 45 lessons (not in full sentence form as should be); connected reading and conversation exercises which are really interesting and instructive but with some lack of variety.

A good feature of the book which is later nullified in the Appendix is the placing of the present subjunctive as polite imperative early in the lessons before taking up the real imperative forms. In the Appendix they are both given under the heading of the Imperative. It has been mentioned that there is lack of variety in the daily exercises. In spite of the fact that many of them are of an interesting nature, the rhythmic repetition of the exercises in the daily recitations will grow monotonous to both teacher and student unless aided by some live reading book fairly early in the course.

The proofreading has been poorly done. As a result there are many mistakes.

The following errors, omissions and misstatements are noted by page, and line when necessary. Page 4 section 3, *Note*,—*u* is

silent after g and q before e or i (i.e., guiar, quedar), also Page 7, first note, has no mention that u is sounded when written ü as in vergüenza, averigüéis, etc.; Page 5, section II, second paragraph, should read "In Spanish 'b' and 'v' are pronounced alike, and are often (incorrectly) interchanged in spelling." Page 6, line 2, strike out (except h); Page 10, (2) has decided lack of consistency in the statement concerning local pronunciations of such words as las mujeres; Page 10, footnote, not clear nor even comprehensible; Page 11, line 2, should give je—jefe and ji—jinete as other examples; Page 12(e) add translation it to él, 'he,' 'him' for sake of clearness in many cases; Page 37 (Conversación), 10, cuantos should be accented; Page 39, line 2, antes del should be delante del to avoid confusion as regards place; Page 139, note 4 is not needed; Page 161, section 187, se should have accent; Page 195, Note 1, gives reference: (Cf. section, 230, note). There is no such note to section 230; the note is to section 231; Page 241, the forms hable Vd., hablemos nosotros, hablen Vds. should not be included under the heading "Imperative" as it is very confusing to student; Page 247 and following, the conditional is not classed as a tense of the Indicative as it is in the previous regular verb models; Page 277 the meaning to make use of is not assigned to servirse; Page 309, second line from bottom of page, él should not have accent. There are also several misprints in the Vocabulary.

In spite of the errors and misstatements that have been noted this book is well worth using as it has a good many new features and is a teachable and well arranged grammar. It will hold an important place among the books on the market. It represents a step in the right direction of teaching Spanish in Spanish in our schools and colleges.

C. M. MONTGOMERY

University of Texas